



**Private Healthcare Alliance**

*Improving Britain's Healthcare*



**CTF**  
PARTNERS

# Presentation to policy-makers

## Public Opinion of Private Hospitals and Private Healthcare

## Summary Findings: Government Leadership

H5, a new alliance of leading private hospital providers, commissioned a quantitative research project to assess public views of probate hospitals.

This took the form of:

- Online survey of n=1007 UK residents (aged 18 or over), with a max. +/-3.1% margin of error
- Nationally representative sample with minimum quotas set by age, gender, region and working status and data weighted to the same

## Background

- People recognise that these are difficult economic times; there is massive government debt; and that government resources are stretched.
- **People want good quality healthcare.**
  - They believe the NHS provides this, albeit with failings.
  - But they are concerned about the future.
- **People want choice.** The public have no ideological objection to private healthcare and don't object to people using it if they can afford it.
- **Private healthcare is an aspiration** for the majority of people.
  - They are put off by perceived high costs, not dogma.



## Summary Findings: Personal Choice

- The British people are proud of the NHS, but also supportive of a role for private hospitals in Britain's overall healthcare system
  - NHS strengths are: access and availability for all; being equitable and free
  - The NHS is trusted in an emergency and for important treatments people believe that it is better
  - Generally people's personal NHS experiences are good
- 28% trust the Conservatives to run the NHS (26% Labour; 9% Lib Dem)
- People are supportive of the Coalition Government's early decisions
  - To protect the NHS budget (74% think it should be protected from any cuts)
  - To trust doctors with power over their funding (64% total agree)
  - To look at a requirement for immigrants to take out private health insurance rather than access the NHS (64% total agree)

## Summary Findings: Personal Choice

- But the NHS is seen as too bureaucratic with long waiting lists. People are concerned about:
  - NHS funding (26% see this as the most important health issue)
  - Future challenges (16% see Obesity as the most important health issue; 12% cancer treatments)
- The main considerations when people are choosing their own treatment are quality of care, time it takes to see a doctor, and choice of treatments
- **As long as they receive the best available healthcare, the system does not matter**
  - 59% agree that the system does not matter, 29% disagree

## Summary Findings: Private healthcare

- **People don't think that private healthcare and the NHS are in competition**
- People believe GPs should encourage those who have private health insurance to use it
  - 54% agree, 33% disagree
- People believe that if you can afford private healthcare you should use it
  - 53% agree, 30% disagree
- They believe that going private frees up the NHS waiting list
  - 63% agree, 24% disagree





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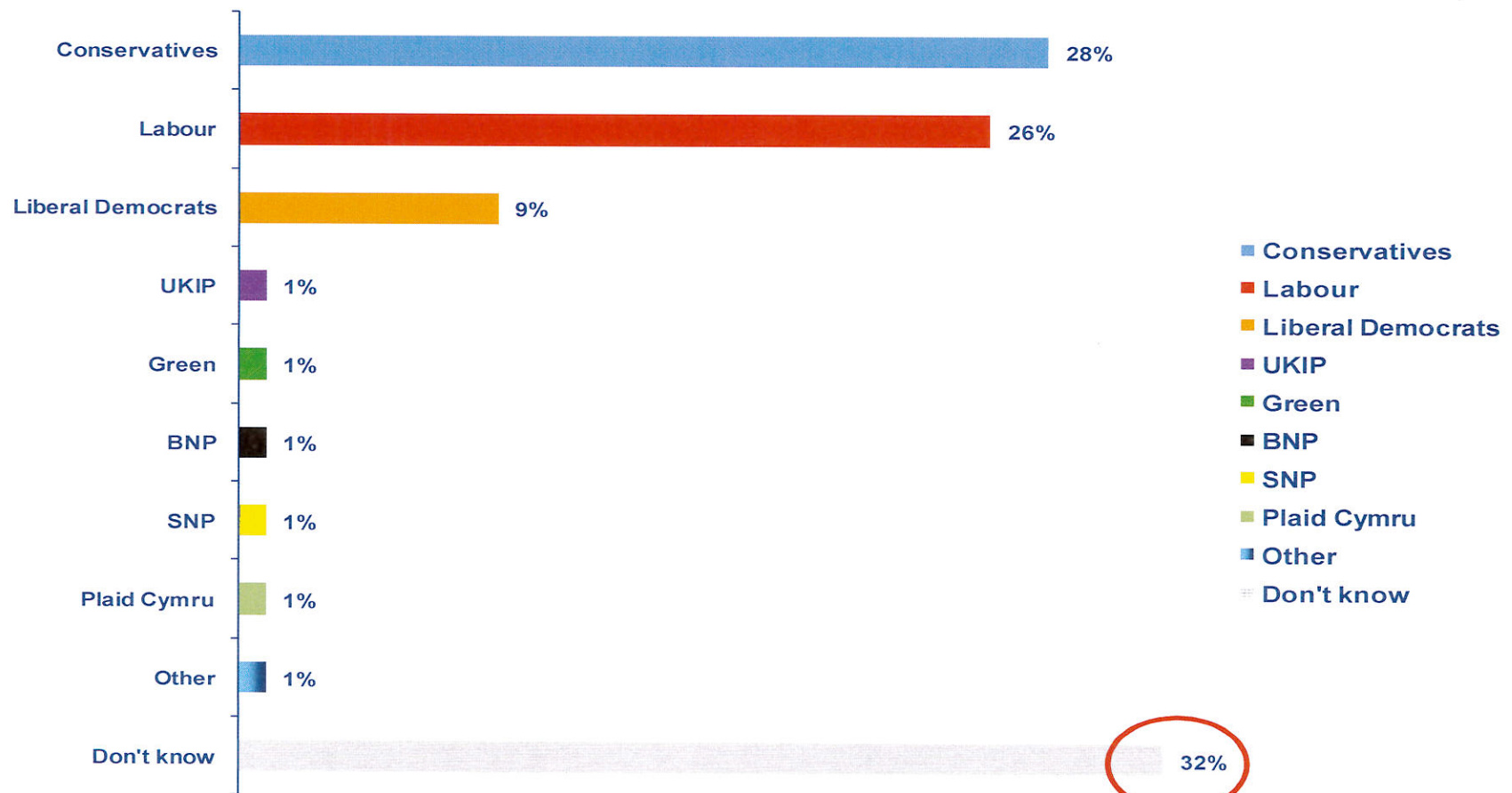
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## Challenges facing the Coalition Government healthcare policies

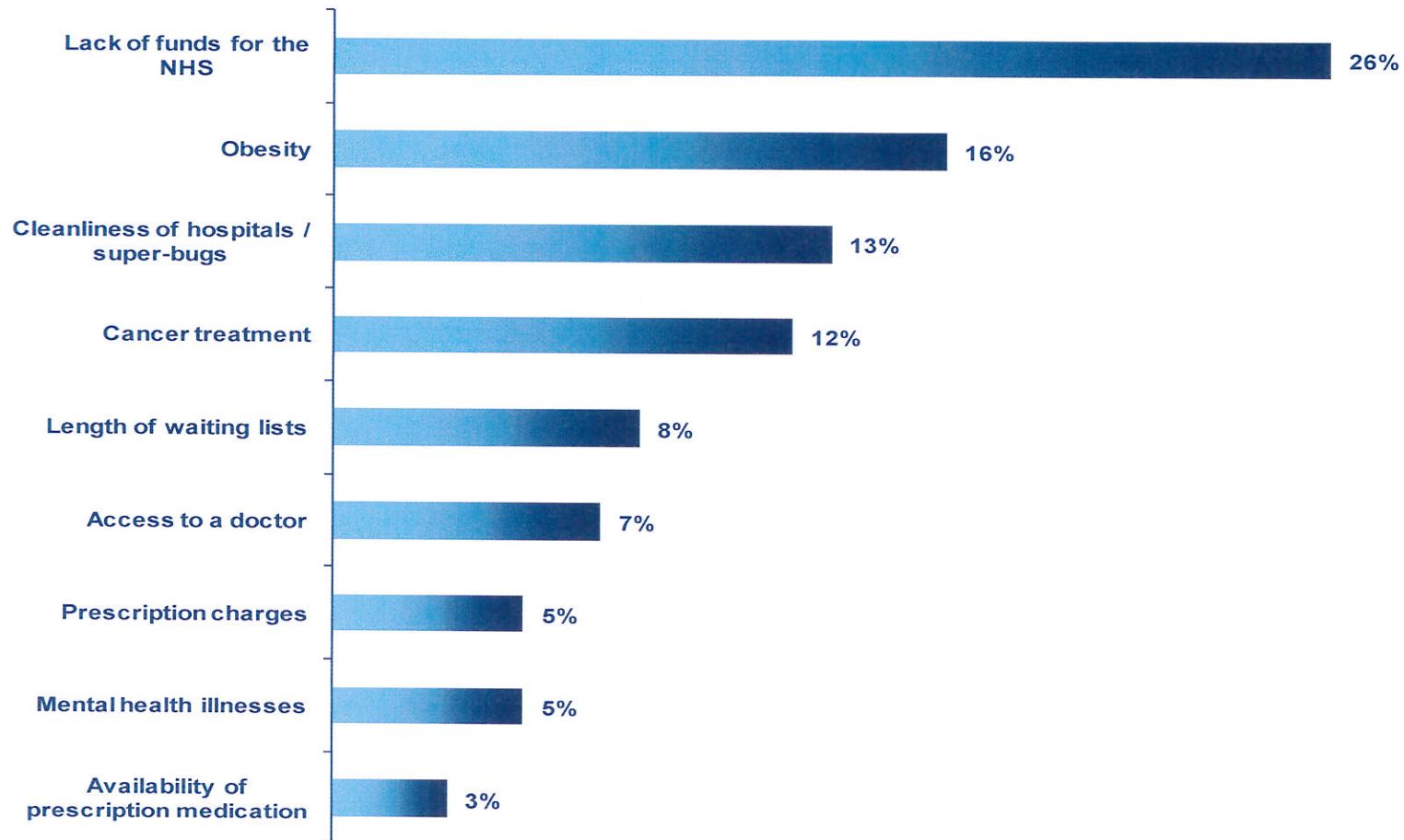
## People are divided on who they trust most to protect the NHS



Q4) Which party do you trust the most to protect the NHS? (BASE = 1007)



## Lack of NHS funding is the most important health issue (prompted)



Q3) What is the most important health issuesat the moment? (BASE=1007) Graph excludes don't knows

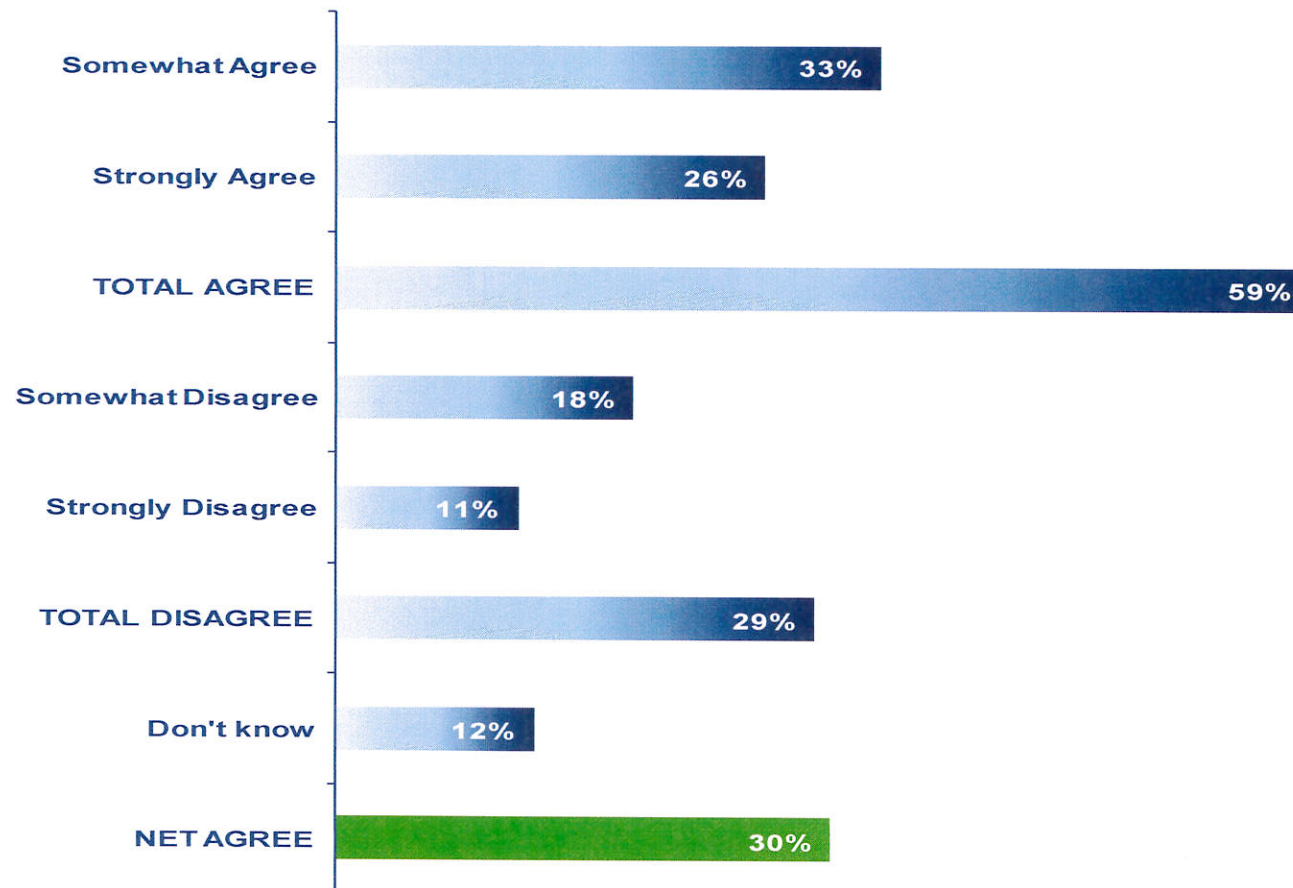
## Lack of NHS funding is the most important health issue

*“Demand for healthcare is infinite, and no matter how much money the government spends people will still not be satisfied”*

*“It was right that the NHS budget was protected”*

*“It’s a good thing that it was protected from cuts, but they still need to put more money towards nursing”*

## So long as people receive the best available healthcare, the system does not matter



Q22) Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.— In the end, it does not matter if we have a tax payer funded health system or a private healthcare system, as long as people get the best available healthcare (BASE = 1007)



## So long as people receive the best available healthcare, the system does not matter

*“Everyone is entitled to decent care if they are sick.”*

*“We need to try something new because the current system isn’t working.”*

*“I think the present system is exhausted.”*